ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. S.M. Naqvi, FNA, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Dr. S.M. Zainuddin, Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for their supervision, inspiration and help.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. H.K. Gupta, FNA, the Director, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad for his valuable guidance and encouragement, for providing all the facilities for successful completion of this work. Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna, FNA; Dr. Hari Narain, FNA; Prof. K. Naha, FNA; Prof. K. Gopalan, FNA; Dr. M. Ramakrishnan, Prof. C. Leelananndam, Prof. S.M. Casshyap and Prof. S.N. Bhalla, have been the source of inspiration throughout the work.

I am highly obliged to Dr. P. Rama Rao for critically reviewing the manuscript and to Dr. V.N. Vasudev for helping and guiding me during the field work.

I sincerely thank Dr. R. Srinivasan, Dr. V. Divakara Rao, Dr. B.L. Narayana, Dr. T.S.M. Hussain, Dr. Y.J. Bhaskar Rao and Dr. T.V. Sivaraman for constant encouragement, help and support extended to me during the preparation of this manuscript.

I sincerely thank Dr. P.K. Govil, Dr. V. Balaram, Shri R. Natarajan, Dr. D.S.N. Murthy, Dr. S. Das Sharma, Dr. S. Nirmal Charan, Dr. T. Gnaneshwar Rao, Dr. (Mrs.) C. Manikyamba, Shri D.J. Patil, Shri S.L. Ramesh and Shri K.V. Anjaiah for helping me immensely in carrying out analytical work at various laboratories of NGRI.
The cooperation and help received from all my colleagues in NGRI, particularly Dr. B. Uday Raj, Dr. D.V. Subba Rao, Shri N.N. Murthy and Dr. Syed Moeen have been invaluable to me. My special thanks are due to Dr. Mukesh Arora for constructive and helpful criticism during the preparation of the manuscript. I am extremely grateful to all my friends, especially Messrs Ajai Manglik, Prantik Mondal, K. Sain, B. Sreenivas and Miss Rita Singh for their affection, help, support and encouragement throughout this work. Without their cooperation, completion of this work in a stipulated period was difficult.

I acknowledge the help rendered by authorities of Hiremagiri-Ramthali and Aihole-Sulebhavi Iron Ore Mines for allowing to collect fresh samples from their open cast mine. I acknowledge the help rendered by staff of Maps and Drawing section, Photographic section, Rock Cutting section, Mrs. Nancy Rajan for flawless typing of the manuscript.

This work has been carried out under the DST grant on evolution of life (Grant No. SP/12/PC2/86) to Dr. S.M. Naqvi and CSIR Fellowship as JRF-CSIR and SRF (NET) (Fellowship No. 31/23/18/88-EMR-I).